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**FAX TRANSMISSION****DATE:** December 23, 2005**PTO IDENTIFIER:** Application Number 10/024,625 - Conf. No. 3998**Inventor:** Ian D. McRury et al.**MESSAGE TO:** US Patent and Trademark Office, Mail Stop Amendment**FAX NUMBER:** (571) 273-8300**FROM:** NUTTER MCCLENNEN & FISH LLP

Ronald E. Cahill

**PHONE:** (617) 439-2000**Attorney Dkt. #:** 22956-71**PAGES (Including Cover Sheet):** 10**CONTENTS:**Amendment Transmittal Letter (1 page)  
Amendment in Response to Non-Final Office Action (8 pages)

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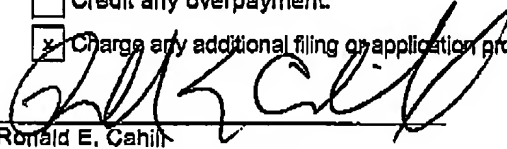
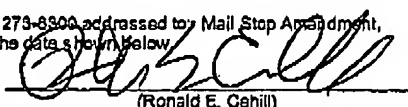
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AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER				Docket No. 22956-71	
Application No. 10/024,625		Filing Date December 18, 2001		Examiner Darwin P. Erez	
				Art Unit 3731	
Applicant(s): Ian D. McRury et al.					
Invention: SUTURE WELDING SYSTEM AND METHOD					
<b>TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS</b>					
X Transmitted herewith is an Amendment and Response to Election/Restriction Requirement					
X The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.					
<b>CLAIMS AS AMENDED</b>					
	Claims Remaining After Amendment	Highest Number Previously Paid	Number Extra Claims Present	Rate	
Total Claims	21	- 24 =	0	x 50.00	0.00
Independent Claims	3	- 4 =	0	x 200.00	0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					
Other fee:					0.00
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT:</b>					<b>\$0.00</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Large Entity <input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity					
<input type="checkbox"/> No additional fee is required for this amendment.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Please charge Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
<input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. <u>141449</u> as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Credit any overpayment.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charge any additional filing or application processing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17.					
 Ronald E. Cahill Attorney Reg. No.: 38,403				Dated: <u>December 23, 2005</u>	
NUTTER MCLENNEN & FISH LLP World Trade Center West 155 Seaport Boulevard Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2604 (617) 439-2000					
Amendment Transmittal					
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile to (571) 273-8300 addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.					
Dated: December 23, 2005				Signature:  (Ronald E. Cahill)	

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Docket No.: 22956-71

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

Ian D. McRury et al.

Confirmation No.: 3998

Application No.: 10/024,625

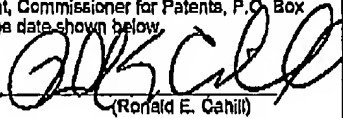
Art Unit: 3731

Filed: December 18, 2001

Examiner: Darwin P. Erez

For: SUTURE WELDING SYSTEM AND METHOD

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile to (571) 273-8900 addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: December 23, 2005 Signature: 

(Ronald E. Cahill)

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Dear Sir:

Before substantive examination on the merits, please amend the claims as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.